

English 5

PREWRITE write revise edit publish

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Understanding the Writing Process

The Writing Process

Experienced writers use the writing process to help them do their best work. The steps in the process are described below.

The Steps in the Writing Process

PROCESS



Prewriting At the start of an assignment, a writer explores possible topics before selecting one to write about. Then the writer collects details about the topic and plans how to use them when writing.



Writing During this step, a writer completes a first draft, using the plan as a guide. This draft is a writer's *first* chance to get everything down on paper.



Revising After reviewing the first draft, a writer changes any ideas that are not clear or complete. A wise writer will ask at least one other person to review the draft, as well.



Editing A writer then checks his or her revised writing for correctness before preparing a neat final copy. The writer proofreads the final copy for errors before sharing or publishing it.



Publishing This is the final step in the writing process. Publishing is to a writer what an exhibit is to an artist—an opportunity to share his or her work with others.



Assess your process. On your own paper, explain the process you used to complete your best piece of writing—what you did first, second, third, and so on. How similar was your process to the one described above?

Write Source: A Book for Writing, Thinking, and Learning. Sebranek, P., Kemper, D., and Meyer, V. 2009. Wilmington, MA: Write Souce/Houghton Mifflin.